

dates, until in Arizona, California, and the Southwestern United States and thence South, they can be taken at all times of the year. One day is just as good as another for collecting. Sunshine and storm in no way affect the bugs, except those that walk on land (the Gelastocoridae and Acanthiidae), which seek shelter. When there has been but little rain and the ponds have evaporated to reduced areas, collecting is much better, as then the bugs are, so to say, more concentrated. After severe storms they are usually much scattered and less easily obtainable, because of the greater volume and area of their haunts. Yet even in these conditions, favourite nooks are found in which they fairly swarm.

In conclusion, I would say that this is merely the general outline of the methods that I have found useful, and I trust it will help others, as some such directions as these would have helped me when I commenced to collect aquatics. Each species requires slightly different methods; their haunts vary in character ever so slightly; the manipulation of the net has to be suited to the peculiarities of each. In the limited space at my disposal, it is impossible to give a cross between a check-list and a dissertation on habits, even were it desirable, which it is not. Therefore, each collector must observe closely to become expert. This is only the guide-post; the collector does the walking. If any of my readers would like further assistance, a letter to me will bring in return whatever may be in my power to give. (Address: 25 Broad Street, New York).

#### A NEW PEZOMACHUS FROM ITALY.

BY WILLIAM H. ASHMEAD, M. A., D. SC.

In a recent sending of parasitic Hymenoptera, bred by Dr. Filippo Silvestri, at the Laboratorio di Entomologia Agraria, Portici, Italy, sent me for names, I find a new *Pezomachus*, represented by both sexes.

*Pezomachus Silvestrii*, new species.—♀. Length, 2.6 mm.; ovipositor a little longer than the petiole of the abdomen. Black and shining, impunctate except a feeble shagreening on the pleura; the metathorax is rounded off posteriorly, and *without* a trace of a transverse carina; antennae 21-jointed, the fourth joint a little shorter than the third, the flagellum brown-black, the extreme apex of the pedicel, or second joint of antennae, yellowish; legs black, with the sutures of the trochanters, the apical third of front femora, front tibiae narrowly at base and more or less beneath, and base of first joint of tarsi, testaceous, the rest of tarsi fuscous or brownish, but a little yellowish at sutures of the joints; hind tibial spurs white.

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♂.—Length, 2.5 mm. Black, not so shining as in the female, and finely shagreened; second joint of all trochanters, apex of front femora, front tibiæ, an annulus at base of middle and hind tibiæ, and all tarsi more or less, testaceous, the basal joints more or less yellowish at base and at their extreme tips; metathorax with delicate carinæ, indistinctly areolated. Wings subhyaline, a faint cloud in the region of the basal and transverse median nervures, and at the apical third of the wings, the large triangular stigma and the veins being brown, the parastigma and the extreme base of the stigma being white; the marginal cell is rather short, triangular, not longer than the stigma; the areolet is pentagonal in position, but open behind; the transverse median nervure in the hind wings is straight, but broken by a vein *below* its middle, or near its basal third.

Types.—Cat. No. 8262, U. S. N. M.

Hab.—Portici, Italy (Dr. Filippo Silvestri).

This species falls in Förster's Monographie der Gattung *Pezomachus* (Grv.), Sec. A., pp. 1-33, but is quite distinct, in colour and sculpture, from any of the species characterized in this work.

#### A NEW SPECIES OF XYLINA.

BY HENRY ENGEL, PITTSBURG, PA.

*Xylina nigrescens*. sp. nov.—Two males and one female.

Upper part of head and thorax stone-gray, front of head light brown, surmounted by a well-defined umber-brown line beneath base of antennæ. This line is continuous along lower margin of patagiæ and very contrasting from the gray thorax. The thorax is rather short and square. Thoracic vestiture intermixed with flattened hair. Thoracic crest slightly raised and defined by a patch of dark brown hair. Collar with a faint line near tip, not contrasting. Palpi are reddish-gray, strongly marked laterally with an umber-brown line outwardly. Antennæ brown, almost smooth in female, shortly ciliated in the male. The male antennæ are very little thicker than in the female, ciliations gray and contrasting. Basal part of antennæ covered with gray scales. Ground colour of primaries ash-gray. A faint tint of green noticeable in one male. The orbicular and posterior third of primaries show the gray colour. The rest of the wing is obscured by dense, glossy black. The basal dash is obvious, curved toward costa, marked with brown scales at the end. Basal part of costa deep black and basal line not visible. T. a. line faintly indicated, curved outward. T. p.

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